



**Cúram Sláinte
Phobail, Iarthar**
ag freastal ar Ghaillimh,
Maigheo agus Ros Comáin

**Community
Healthcare West**
serving Galway, Mayo
and Roscommon

Ceannasaí na Seirbhísí Bunchúrait

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September 25th , 2023

Deputy Denis Naughten
Unit 3 Golf Links Road
Roscommon
Co. Roscommon
F42 YX65

RE: PQ 38363/23

“To ask the Minister for Health the number of dental practices in counties Roscommon and Galway which have ceased providing medical card services in the past five years; the medical card dental services currently available to medical card users; the provision in place for those whose local dentist withdraws from the provision of medical card services; and if he will make a statement on the matter”

Dear Deputy Naughten

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

In the past five years six contractors have left the scheme from Co Roscommon and 18 contractors have left in Co Galway.

Services available under the scheme include examination, cleaning, restorations (2 without prior approval). Extractions, prosthetic's (dentures) and root canal treatments on anterior teeth, additional items can be approved on provision of clinical necessity for cases along with approval forms.

Dental Services to Medical Card holders are being delivered by five contractors in Co Roscommon and 28 contractors in Co Galway, however all are advising that they are at capacity currently.

Emergency cases have been facilitated in the HSE/ local Health Centers however this service is a paediatric service and is not resourced for adult medical card holders seeking treatment.

There are 1.5 million adults eligible for medical cards and currently less than 600 Dentists across the entire country operating the scheme. The DTSS system requires a full overhaul in order to provide capacity in the system for medical card holders.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely



Mary Warde
Head of Primary Care Services
Galway, Mayo & Roscommon